

Public member report of the Parish Council Meeting

Everything in this report is based on my own understanding and the notes I made. It does not in any way reflect any form of officialdom. Whilst I make every attempt to report what occurs, it is easy to get confused when you only have half the information! For the official minutes you will have to wait until after they have been approved following the next council meeting (April).

There were 10 members of the council present, 2 police, representatives of the Bowling Club and a few members of the public.

The meeting was held in the **Rawstorne Sports Centre** on Monday the 7th March.

I find this venue less than ideal and the bar was closed! It is however quieter than using the village hall meeting room as the music from the main hall can be rather loud.

A CCTV pole has been put up in the park.

Lighting has been approved for the ginnel between Bramwell Road and Bush Lane.

The police were very happy with the Parish Plan Open day.

The Freckleton Bowling club representatives gave a very short presentation as part of their request for funding and changes to the lease. They have approximately 100 members of which 40% are female. They have good facilities. The Club feel that the groundsman should be paid professionally. External contractors are required for some work. An increase in the grant was requested to cover the cost of maintaining the green. The action was forwarded to the Open Spaces sub-committee. Report at the next meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 24th February were agreed with one minor change.

The report on the accident on the dual carriageway is not yet complete. Expected at the next meeting.

Speed cameras have been in use on the dual carriageway. There were comments on the times at which the cameras were present, as they were not there during the periods that the councillors considered were the most appropriate. A number of penalties have been issued. Analysis of speed along the full stretch is ongoing.

The question has been raised as to who owns the band room and who is responsible. It was stated that the Parish Council is responsible for the outside and fabric and the band for the interior. This prompted a request for a review of all PC buildings and property.

Work on the band room was agreed and seconded.

The sale of land for an electrical sub-station is ongoing.

Council accounts budget statements **in pink**.

The in pink refers to an attachment to the agenda that does not appear to be available to the public. This makes following the next part of the meeting difficult because it is not clear what they are talking about!

Estimates for outstanding work for band room (?). £2080 to replace the roof or £2580 for a sloped boxed roof. It was agreed that the box roof option should be taken.

Post meeting note: I have been informed that the repairs are to the Scout Hut, not the Band Room. It just goes to show how confusing it is when you don't have the pink attachment!

There was a request to clean/repair the memorial stone and plaque at a cost of £305. Agreed.

£7000 has been spent in the memorial gardens.

Allotment fees – The accounts are in good order. Fees will remain the same for the coming year.

We then had an Enclosed in Yellow, another attachment not available to the public. Again it was difficult to follow what was going on. The yellow enclosure is related to correspondence. Some items were discussed and agreed without me having a clue what was being talked about!

Dog mess notices and fines. Fylde Borough want comments on the proposals on the web site, something about the issue of fixed penalty notices. It was decided that no action would be taken.

BAD2 association reunion in 2006. Request for support/grant. Agreed in principle but no action required until grants decided in April 2006.

The pressure group to ensure the protection of open spaces requested a grant of £11 (?) which was agreed.

The ownership of the fence adjoining the park was questioned (presumably because the fence is in need of repair?). It was stated that this was established 20 years ago. The fence was built as part of the houses. The house owners are responsible.

An application form has been received for the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition. It was agreed that it should be entered.

The Club Day Committee has requested somewhere to store equipment. It was proposed that the youth centre, which has been condemned, be used. There were objections as the building has been condemned and should be flattened. It remains a magnet for youths and is a fire hazard. At this point the meeting deviated from the original topic and went onto the issue of a new Youth Club building. It was estimated that a new building would cost £50-80 thousand and this was the long-term aim. There was also discussion about a temporary building. It was decided that the issue of storage would be forwarded to the fabrics committee.

Open Spaces meeting will be held on the 10th March.

There was a request for a grant from a school (Holy Families?) which was rejected.

A new proposal has been made for the School Lane Car park. This was not the same as proposed by the PC. Comments to FBC were requested. A map/plan was examined at the table and changes discussed. PC have concerns with the proposal and changes will be requested.

There is an issue of vandalism in the C of E church graveyard and a request for a grant towards a security light has been made. A previous proposal to illuminate the front of the church was dropped. It was proposed and agreed that a contribution would be made.

There was a planning application for a conservatory. No comment – Support.

Parish Plan Report – About 300 visitors came to the open day. Four councillors did not turn up or apologise for their absence. The actions from the Parish Plan have been agreed at the last Parish Plan meeting and funding needs to be obtained. An objective of the plan will be to establish a trust fund to apply for funding as Parish Councils cannot apply.

Post meeting note: A Parish Plan Update report was also circulated.

The Countryside (something?) has been abolished and is now part of DEFRA

Post meeting note: Abolished is wrong. Responsibility for Parish Plans has been transferred to DEFRA. The Countryside Agency is still going strong.

The FBC offer a 'health check' which looks at what we have and what we should have.

The Open Spaces supervisor is running within budget. Working very well. It was proposed that it continue for the next twelve months.

At this point the public were asked to leave as the council were going to discuss wages. So that ends my report for this month.

The date and place of the next meeting was not provided before I left.

Post meeting note: I'm not impressed with the 'enclosed in pink' and 'enclosed in yellow' agenda. I shall be bringing this up at the annual assembly to be held in the Rawstorne sports centre on Monday the 4th April 2005 commencing at 7:00pm..